

Atty. Dkt. No. 084335-0131

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2. (Amended) An isolated DNA encoding a protein which comprises an amino acid sequence having 60% or more homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and confers an ability to grow in a medium containing 1% polypeptone, 0.5% yeast extract, 0.5% sodium chloride, 0.1% glucose, 20 µg/ml thiamine and 100 µg/ml lysozyme to a microorganism belonging to *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

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3. (Amended) An isolated DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; or a DNA hybridizing with the DNA having a complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 at 65C in the presence of 0.7 to 1.0M sodium chloride and encoding a protein which confers an ability to grow in a medium containing 1% polypeptone, 0.5% yeast extract, 0.5% sodium chloride, 0.1% glucose, 20 µg/ml thiamine and 100 µg/ml lysozyme to a microorganism belonging to *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, wherein the hybridization further includes a step of washing under the condition of 65C by the use of solution containing 15 to 300 mM sodium chloride and 1.5 to 30 mM sodium citrate.

4. (Amended) An isolated DNA which is contained in a plasmid carried by FERM BP-6479 and codes for a protein which confers an ability to grow in a medium containing 1% polypeptone, 0.5% yeast extract, 0.5% sodium chloride, 0.1% glucose, 20 µg/ml thiamine and 100 µg/ml lysozyme to a microorganism belonging to *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

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20. (Amended) The DNA according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism is a mutant strain of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* which cannot grow in medium containing 1% polypeptone, 0.5% yeast extract, 0.5% sodium chloride, 0.1% glucose, 20 µg/ml thiamine and 50 µg/ml lysozyme.

21. (Amended) The DNA according to claim 2, wherein the microorganism is a mutant strain of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* which cannot grow in a medium containing 1% polypeptone, 0.5% yeast extract, 0.5% sodium chloride, 0.1% glucose, 20 µg/ml thiamine and 50 µg/ml lysozyme.

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26. (Amended) The DNA according to claim 3, wherein the DNA is a DNA derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus *Corynebacterium*.

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30. (Amended) The DNA according to claim 3, wherein the DNA is a DNA derived from a microorganism belonging to *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

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40. (Amended) A method for producing a protein, which comprises culturing the transformant of claim 36 in a medium, producing and accumulating the protein encoded by the DNA according to any one of claims 1, 20, 24 and 28 in the culture, and collecting the protein from the culture.

41. (Amended) A method for producing a protein, which comprises culturing the transformant of claim 37 in a medium, producing and accumulating the protein encoded by the DNA according to any one of claims 2, 21, 25 and 29 in the culture, and collecting the protein from the culture.

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Please add the following new claims:

44. (New) A method for producing a protein, which comprises culturing the transformant of claim 38 in a medium, producing and accumulating the protein encoded by the DNA according to any one of claims 3, 22, 26 and 30 in the culture, and collecting the protein from the culture.

45. (New) A method for producing a protein, which comprises culturing the transformant of claim 39 in a medium, producing and accumulating the protein encoded by the DNA according to any one of claims 4, 23, 27 and 31 in the culture, and collecting the protein from the culture.

46. (New) A DNA fragment which comprises a nucleotide sequence corresponding to the nucleotide position numbers 271 to 1593 in the nucleotide sequence identified as SEQ ID NO: 1.

47. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the DNA according to claim 46.

48. (New) A transformant prepared by introducing the recombinant vector of claim 47 into a host cell.

49. (New) A method for producing a protein, which comprises culturing the transformant of claim 48 in a medium, producing and accumulating the protein encoded by the DNA according to claim 46 in the culture, and collecting the protein from the culture.